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ANNUAL

PART 2

THE VON STRUCKER GAMBIT

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THE PUNISHER

D.D. STOPPED ONE OF THEM...

CAP'S JUST WAITING FOR HIS...

THIS ISSUE, IT'S THE *PUNISHER'S* TURN!

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THE VON STRUCKER GAMBIT™
PART 2

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THE PUNISHER®

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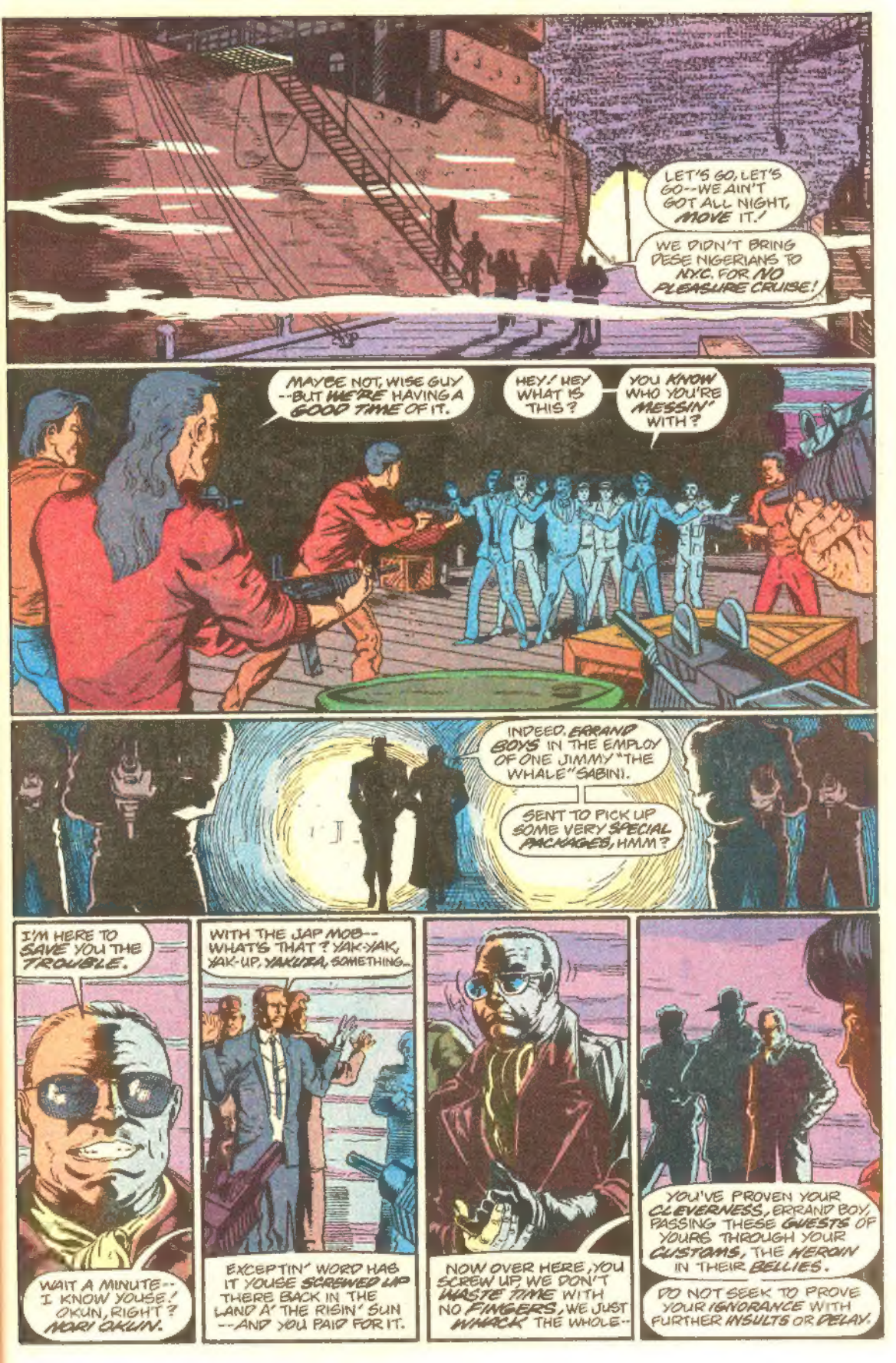
...THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS TO CAPTAIN FRANK CASTLE FOR VALOR ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.
FRANK CASTLE WAS A GOOD MARINE.
WHEN HE LEFT THE MARINES, HE WAS EAGER TO BE A GOOD HUSBAND AND A LOVING AND DEDICATED FATHER.
CAREFUL, FRANK! YOU'LL CRUSH THE BABY!
HONEY, I'VE DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE CORPS' OFFER TO RUN TRAINING SEMINARS FOR SPECIAL FORCES UPSTATE.
OH, FRANK, I THOUGHT YOU WERE THROUGH WITH ALL THAT.
IT'S WHAT I DO BEST. AND DON'T WORRY, MARIA, I WON'T BE IN ANY DANGER.
MATERNITY WARD
I'VE READ THE SAME PAGE NOW FIVE TIMES. THIS WAITING IS KILLING ME!
THINGS WENT WELL FOR THE CASTLES OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS. HIS BUSINESS THRIVED ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND HIS FAMILY THRIVED ON FRANK'S LOVE.
THEN ONE DAY HE GOT A PHONE CALL.
WHAT IS IT, FRANK?
THEY JUST TOLD ME I'M GOING TO GET THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM AWARD...

THE TRIP TO WASHINGTON WAS THEIR FIRST VACATION SINCE THEIR DAUGHTER'S BIRTH. THEY PAUSED IN NEW YORK TO PICNIC IN CENTRAL PARK.
I'M GOING TO FIND THE KIDS.
OKAY.
BRAPP
BRAKKA
BLAM
BLAM
NOOOO!
BLAM
BLAM
BRAKKA
LOOK! THERE'S ANOTHER ONE!
#$%@#$ CURIOUS BYSTANDERS...
AM-SCRAY! I HEAR SIRENS!

WE THINK YOU STUMBLED ONTO A COSTA FAMILY RUB-OUT, YOU KNOW BRUNO COSTA -- THE DAPPER DON. NATURALLY, HE HAS AN ALIBI.
DON'T WORRY, CASTLE. WE'LL GET HIM.
JUST DON'T DO NOTHIN' STUPID. YEAH, I KNOW YOU WERE A HOT-SHOT SPECIAL FORCES GUY, BUT YOU'RE A CIVILIAN NOW. LEAVE IT TO THE POLICE.
PLEASE, MR. CASTLE! YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO WALK.
MERCY GENERAL HOSPITAL
HE DID? $#.4! I JUST KNEW THE DUMB @@$+@% ¢ WAS GOING TO DO SOMETHING STUPID! $#.+!
FAMILY, LOVE, A NORMAL LIFE -- THESE THINGS WERE NOT MEANT FOR HIM. A VEIL HAD BEEN LIFTED. NEVER AGAIN WOULD HE BE ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE AMONG NORMAL PEOPLE.
HE HAD DECIDED TO BECOME THAT FOR WHICH HE HAD BEEN TRAINED ALL HIS LIFE...
THE PUNISHER


LET'S GO, LET'S GO--WE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT, MOVE IT.!
WE DIDN'T BRING DESE NIGERIANS TO NYC. FOR NO PLEASURE CRUISE!
MAYBE NOT, WISE GUY --BUT WE'RE HAVING A GOOD TIME OF IT.
HEY.! HEY WHAT IS THIS?
YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE MESSIN' WITH?
INDEED. ERRAND BOYS IN THE EMPLOY OF ONE JIMMY "THE WHALE" SABINI.
SENT TO PICK UP SOME VERY SPECIAL PACKAGES, HMM?
I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE.
WAIT A MINUTE-- I KNOW YOUSE.! OKUN, RIGHT? MORI OKUN.
WITH THE JAP MOB-- WHAT'S THAT? YAK-YAK, YAK-UP, YAKUZA, SOMETHING...
EXCEPTIN' WORD HAS IT YOUSE SCREWED UP THERE BACK IN THE LAND A' THE RISIN' SUN --AND YOU PAID FOR IT.
NOW OVER HERE, YOU SCREW UP WE DON'T WASTE TIME WITH NO FINGERS, WE JUST WHACK THE WHOLE--
YOU'VE PROVEN YOUR CLEVERNESS, ERRAND BOY, PASSING THESE GUESTS OF YOURS THROUGH YOUR CUSTOMS, THE HEROIN IN THEIR BELLIES.
DO NOT SEEK TO PROVE YOUR IGNORANCE WITH FURTHER INSULTS OR DELAY.

HEY, NORI--PAISAN--DON'T YOU THINK WE WANNA TURN FIFTY G'S WORTHA HORSE OVER TO YOUSE?
SAY, PETEY, YOU WANNA BREAK OUT THE EX-LAX?
ENOUGH. MR. O GAVE YOU A CHANCE...
...I CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY YOU DIDN'T TAKE IT!
THE CUTTING EDGE
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PENCILER JOHN HERBERT
INKERS JIMMY PALMIOTTI
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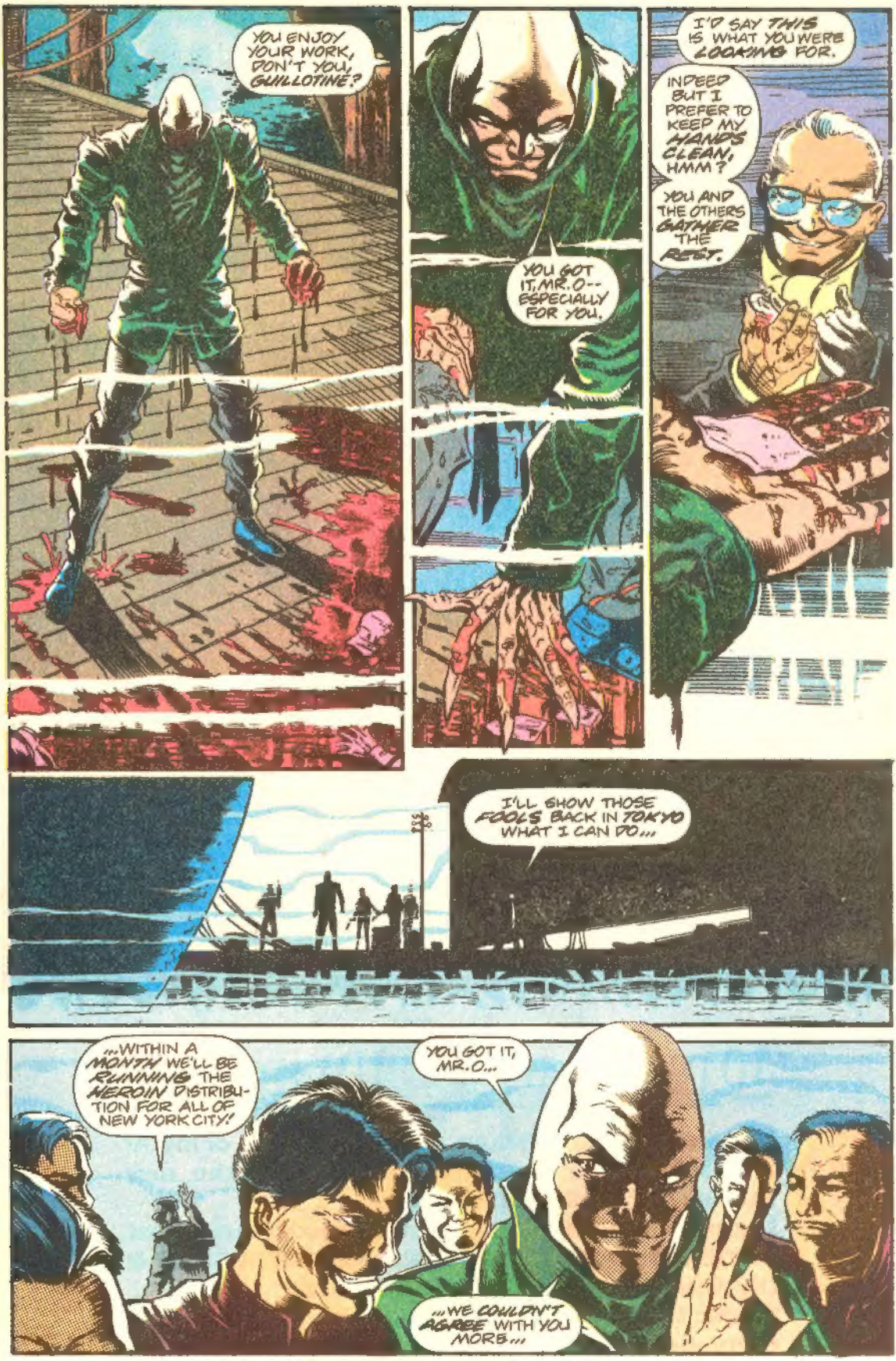
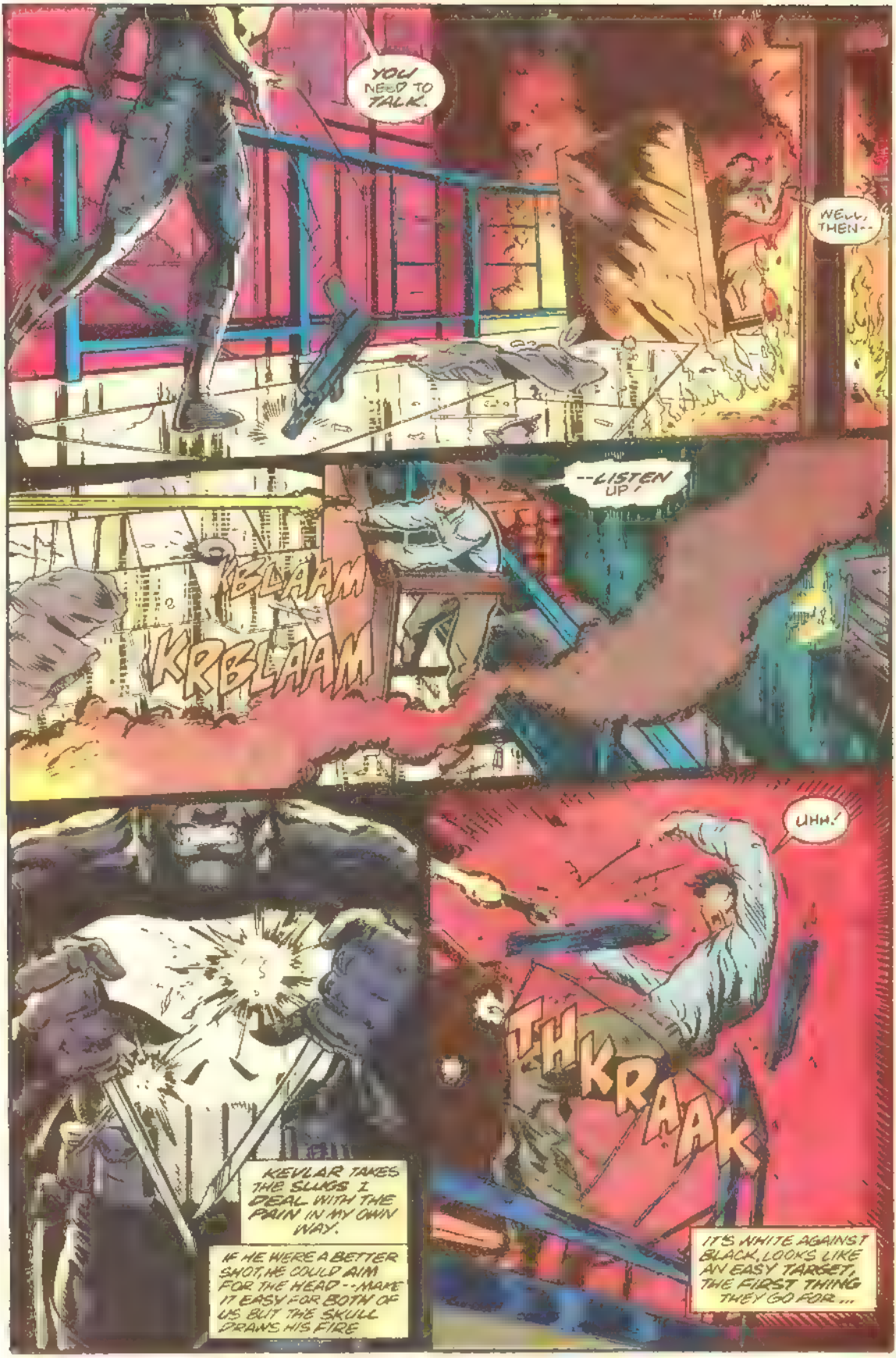
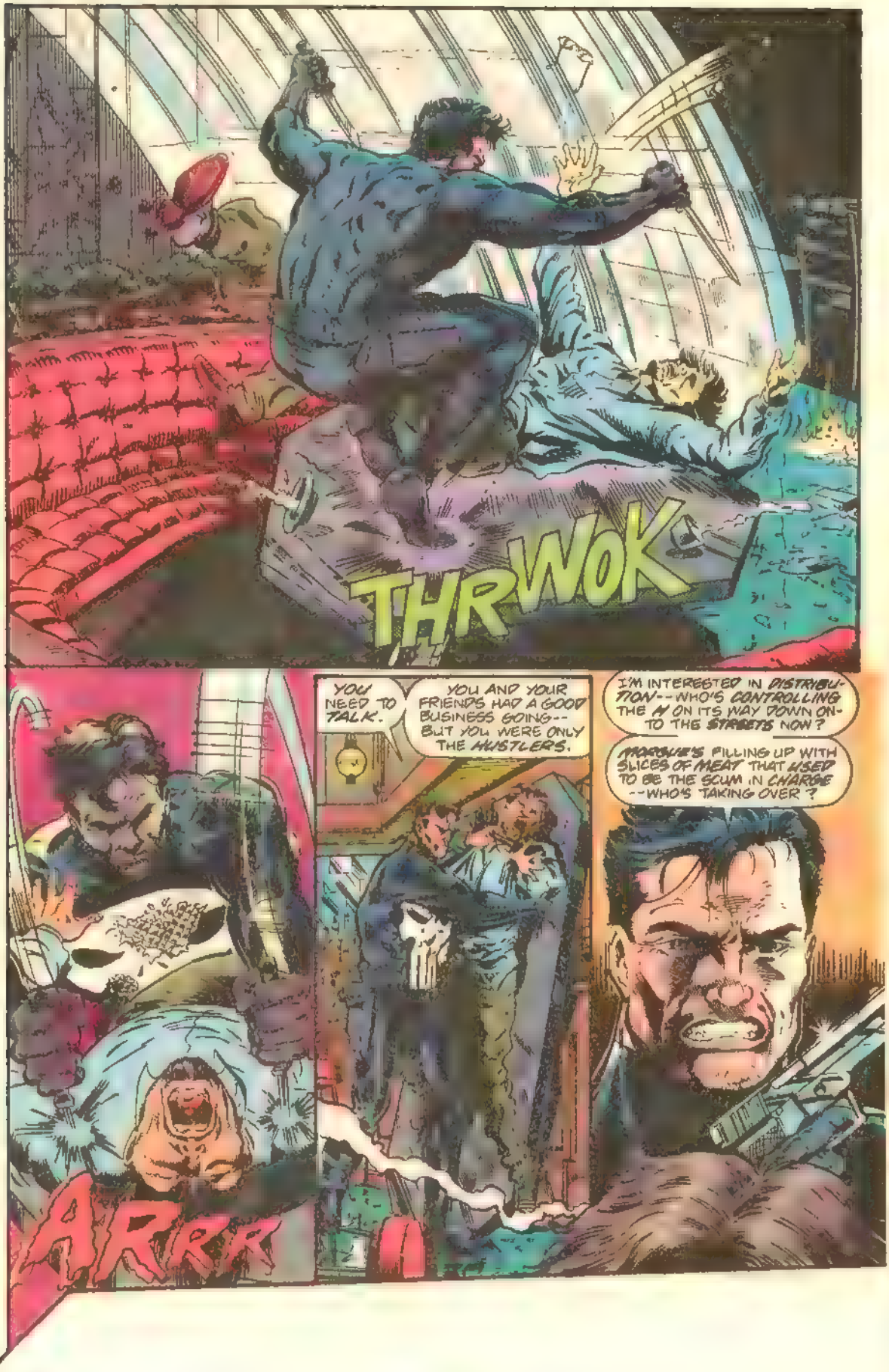

YOU ENJOY YOUR WORK, DON'T YOU, GUILLOTINE?
YOU GOT IT, MR. O-- ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.
I'D SAY THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR.
INDEED BUT I PREFER TO KEEP MY HANDS CLEAN, HMM?
YOU AND THE OTHERS GATHER THE REST.
I'LL SHOW THOSE FOOLS BACK IN TOKYO WHAT I CAN DO...
...WITHIN A MONTH WE'LL BE RUNNING THE HEROIN DISTRIBUTION FOR ALL OF NEW YORK CITY!
YOU GOT IT, MR. O...
...WE COULDN'T AGREE WITH YOU MORE...

LATER...
THERE ARE STILL TRACES OF BLOOD SOAKED INTO THE WOOD.
AND THESE GASHES --LIMITED SIGNS OF WEATHERING.
HE'S BEEN HERE, DAKINI. RECENTLY--A WEEK, TEN DAYS AT MOST.
NOT "HE," TAKIMOTO--IT. ANOTHER GENETIC EXPERIMENT ON THE LOOSE, LIKE THAT SATHAN AND ROMULUS.!*
GUILLOTINE'S JUST ANOTHER THING FOR US TO HUNT DOWN IN THE NAME OF HYDRA.
IN THE NAME OF BARON WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER, YOU MEAN-- AND ALL THE MORE REASON TO TEMPER YOUR BLOOD-LUST AND PROCEED WITH CAUTION.
* SEE DAREDEVIL ANNUAL # 7, ON SALE NOW!
THE BARON WILL NOT TOLERATE ANOTHER FAILURE ON THE ORDER OF CRIPPLER AND SATHAN.
CRIPPLER'S INCOMPETENCE ONLY BROUGHT ON SATHAN'S EXECUTION THAT MUCH QUICKER.
I WONDER...THE BARON'S CUNNING IS LEGENDARY. PERHAPS HE HAS OTHER USES IN MIND FOR THESE ESCAPED "EXPERIMENTS".
REGARDLESS, WE SHOULD POOL OUR RESOURCES. THE SEARCH WILL GO QUICKER, AND WITH THE ESPIONAGE AGENCY S.H.I.E.L.D. SEEKING US TO GAIN DETAILS ON THE NEW HYDRA--
I'M NOT FRIGHTENED BY WHAT'S LEFT OF NICK FURY AND HIS SPOOKS, TAKIMOTO--
--AND MY KILL WILL BE MY OWN!
YOU "PROCEED WITH CAUTION" AFTER GUILLOTINE. I'LL LET MY "BLOOD-LUST" TAKE ME TO ROMULUS. AND THEN WE'LL SEE WHICH OF US COMES TO A CLEANER END...

PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL, NEW YORK, APRIL 9TH.
KROOM KAROOM
GET OUT OF MY FACE!
GET OUT OF MY FACE, YOU PSYCHO SON OF A--
THE BODY COUNT SPREAD OUT ACROSS THE FLOOR USED TO RUN THIS PLACE, SERVING UP A MENU OF HEROIN SPECIALTIES TO THEIR SELECT CLIENTELE. NOW THEY'RE TABLE SCRAPS--
--AND I'M THE ONE DOING THE SERVING. A NINE-MILLIMETER COURSE MEAL OF RETRIBUTION.
AND FOR DESSERT..
--INFORMATION.
YOU NEED TO TALK, MAGON.
WE GOT NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT, YOU LOONY MOTHER--
NO.
KLKK

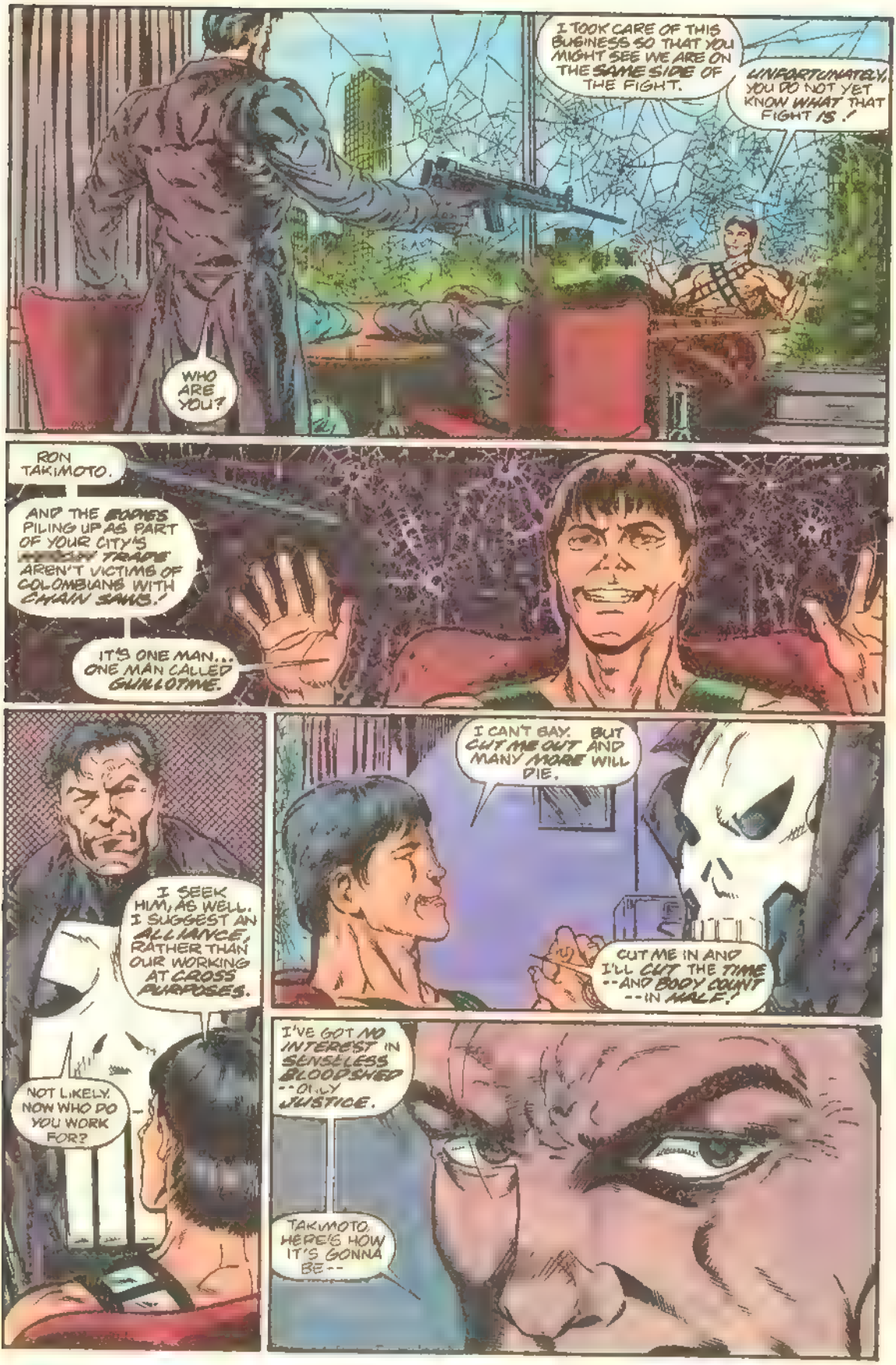

YOU NEED TO TALK.
WELL, THEN--
--LISTEN UP!
KBLAAM
KRBLAAM
UHH!
THKRAAK
KEVLAR TAKES THE SLUGS. I DEAL WITH THE PAIN IN MY OWN WAY.
IF HE WERE A BETTER SHOT, HE COULD AIM FOR THE HEAD--MAKE IT EASY FOR BOTH OF US. BUT THE SKULL DRAWS HIS FIRE.
IT'S WHITE AGAINST BLACK. LOOKS LIKE AN EASY TARGET. THE FIRST THING THEY GO FOR...

...ITS GRIMACE THE LAST THING THEY EVER SEE.
KRTOOM
KROOM

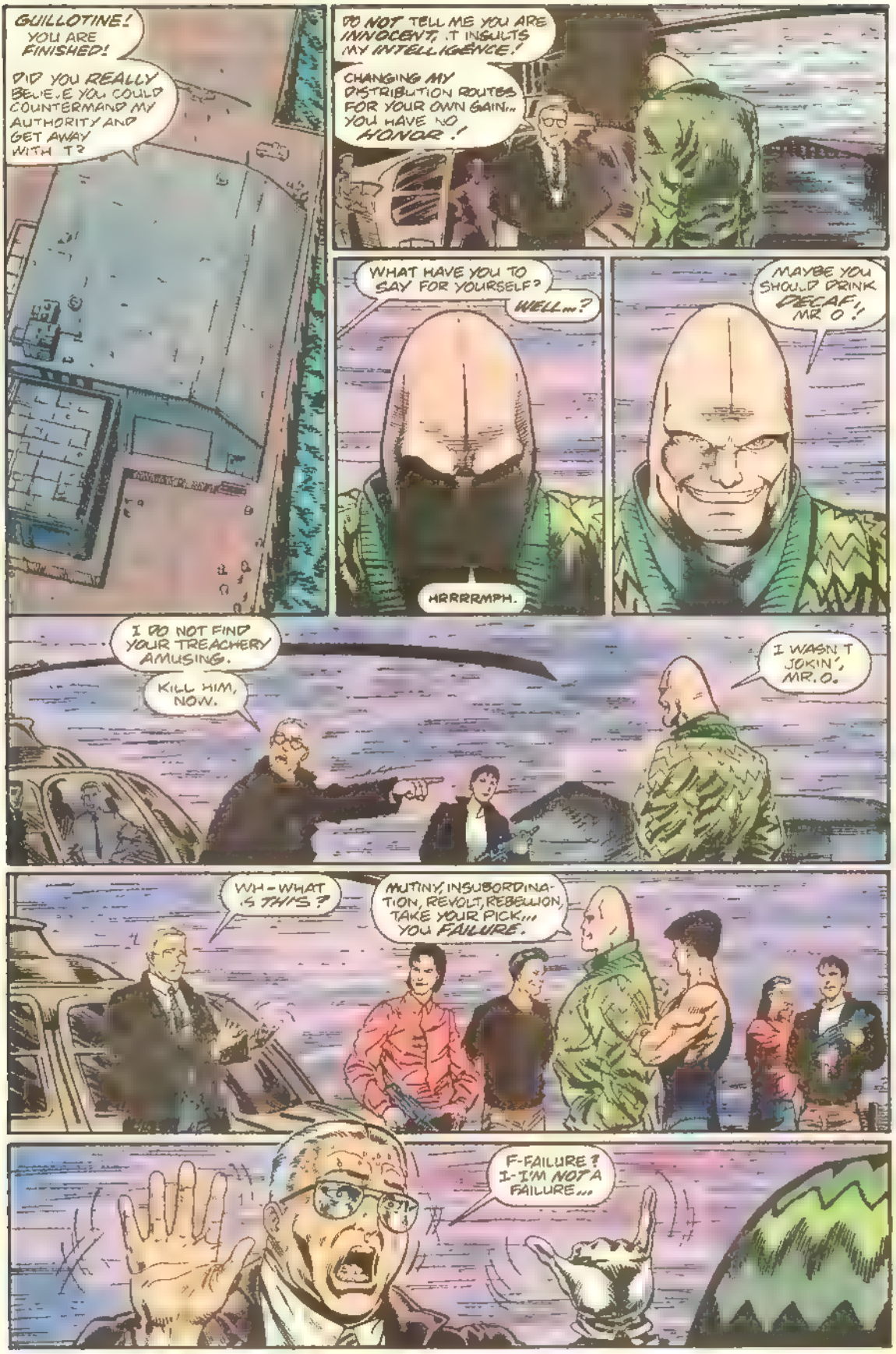

THRWOK
YOU NEED TO TALK.
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAD A GOOD BUSINESS GOING-- BUT YOU WERE ONLY THE HUSTLERS.
I'M INTERESTED IN DISTRIBUTION--WHO'S CONTROLLING THE H ON ITS WAY DOWN ON-TO THE STREETS NOW?
MORGUE'S FILLING UP WITH SLICES OF MEAT THAT USED TO BE THE SCUM IN CHARGE --WHO'S TAKING OVER?
ARRR

I SAID YOU NEED TO--
I'M DEAD, PUNISHER. THEY'LL KILL ME IF I TELL YOU, YOU'LL KILL ME IF I DON'T!
AAAA
WHY--WHY SHOULD I SAY... SQUAT TO YOU?!
FWOOSH
I'M TORCHING THIS PLACE YOU WANT A MERCY BULLET?
OH, GOD...
BUT ALL I KNOW IS THE NEXT STEP UP - THEY WORK OUT OF THE GENTILI SUITE AT SLOAT PLAZA!
THAT'S ALL... THAT'S ALL I...
I'M A FAIR MAN...
...A MAN OF MY WORD.
BLAM

SLOAT PLAZA, ONE NIGHT LATER
MONTHLY RENT ON THE GENTILI SUITE'S MORE THAN MOST HONEST PEOPLE MAKE IN A YEAR.
THE TENANTS THINK IT'S WORTH IT, THEIR DRUG MONEY BUYING THEM THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF LEGITIMATE SURROUNDINGS.
NOTHING IS SECURE NOWHERE IS SAFE.
NOT ONCE YOU CROSS THE LINE-- MY LINE.
BRAT TAT TAT TAT
I REALIZED IMMEDIATELY THAT I'VE FIRED TOO HIGH. NOT BECAUSE MY TARGETS DUCKED, THOUGH...
THEY COULDN'T DUCK--BECAUSE THEY WERE ALREADY DEAD.
HAVE BEEN FOR SOME TIME.
ADMIRABLE TECHNIQUE ALTHOUGH I MYSELF PREFER THE HANDS ON APPROACH.
IF THIS IS YOUR WORK MAYBE YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE OF GETTING OUT OF HERE ALIVE.
BUT I NEED TO KNOW WHY YOU KILLED THEM.
MY ACTIONS HERE WERE NOT ON BEHALF OF ANY NARCOTICS DEALING FACTION IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN, MR. CASTLE


I TOOK CARE OF THIS BUSINESS SO THAT YOU MIGHT SEE WE ARE ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE FIGHT.
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU DO NOT YET KNOW WHAT THAT FIGHT IS.'
WHO ARE YOU?
RON TAKIMOTO.
AND THE BODIES PILING UP AS PART OF YOUR CITY'S [redacted] TRADE AREN'T VICTIMS OF COLOMBIANS WITH CHAIN SAWS.'
IT'S ONE MAN... ONE MAN CALLED GUILLOTINE.
I SEEK HIM, AS WELL. I SUGGEST AN ALLIANCE, RATHER THAN OUR WORKING AT CROSS PURPOSES.
NOT LIKELY. NOW WHO DO YOU WORK FOR?
I CAN'T SAY. BUT CUT ME OUT AND MANY MORE WILL DIE.
CUT ME IN AND I'LL CUT THE TIME --AND BODY COUNT --IN HALF.'
I'VE GOT NO INTEREST IN SENSELESS BLOODSHED --ONLY JUSTICE.
TAKIMOTO, HERE'S HOW IT'S GONNA BE--

IT'S GONNA BE THE TWO A' YOU UP AGAINST THAT WALL, SPREADIN' 'EM WIDE FOR ME, "GENTLEMEN"!
FURY!
GOT NO BEEF WITH YOU TODAY, FRANKY--BUT THE COMPANY YOU'RE KEEPIN', THAT'S ANOTHER STORY.
HIS PALS AT HYDRA--HE DID TELL YOU HE WAS A HYDRA TERRORIST, DIDN'T HE?--THEY LAID WASTE TO 1500 A' MY SHIELD AGENTS JUST RECENT.
AND MR TAKIMOTO HERE'S GONNA ANSWER FOR THAT...


GUILLOTINE! YOU ARE FINISHED!
DID YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOU COULD COUNTERMAND MY AUTHORITY AND GET AWAY WITH IT?
DO NOT TELL ME YOU ARE INNOCENT. IT INSULTS MY INTELLIGENCE!
CHANGING MY DISTRIBUTION ROUTES FOR YOUR OWN GAIN... YOU HAVE NO HONOR!
WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
WELL...?
HRRRRMPH.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD DRINK DECAF, MR O!
I DO NOT FIND YOUR TREACHERY AMUSING.
KILL HIM, NOW.
I WASN'T JOKIN', MR. O.
WH-WHAT IS THIS?
MUTINY, INSUBORDINATION, REVOLT, REBELLION, TAKE YOUR PICK... YOU FAILURE.
F-FAILURE? I-I'M NOT A FAILURE...

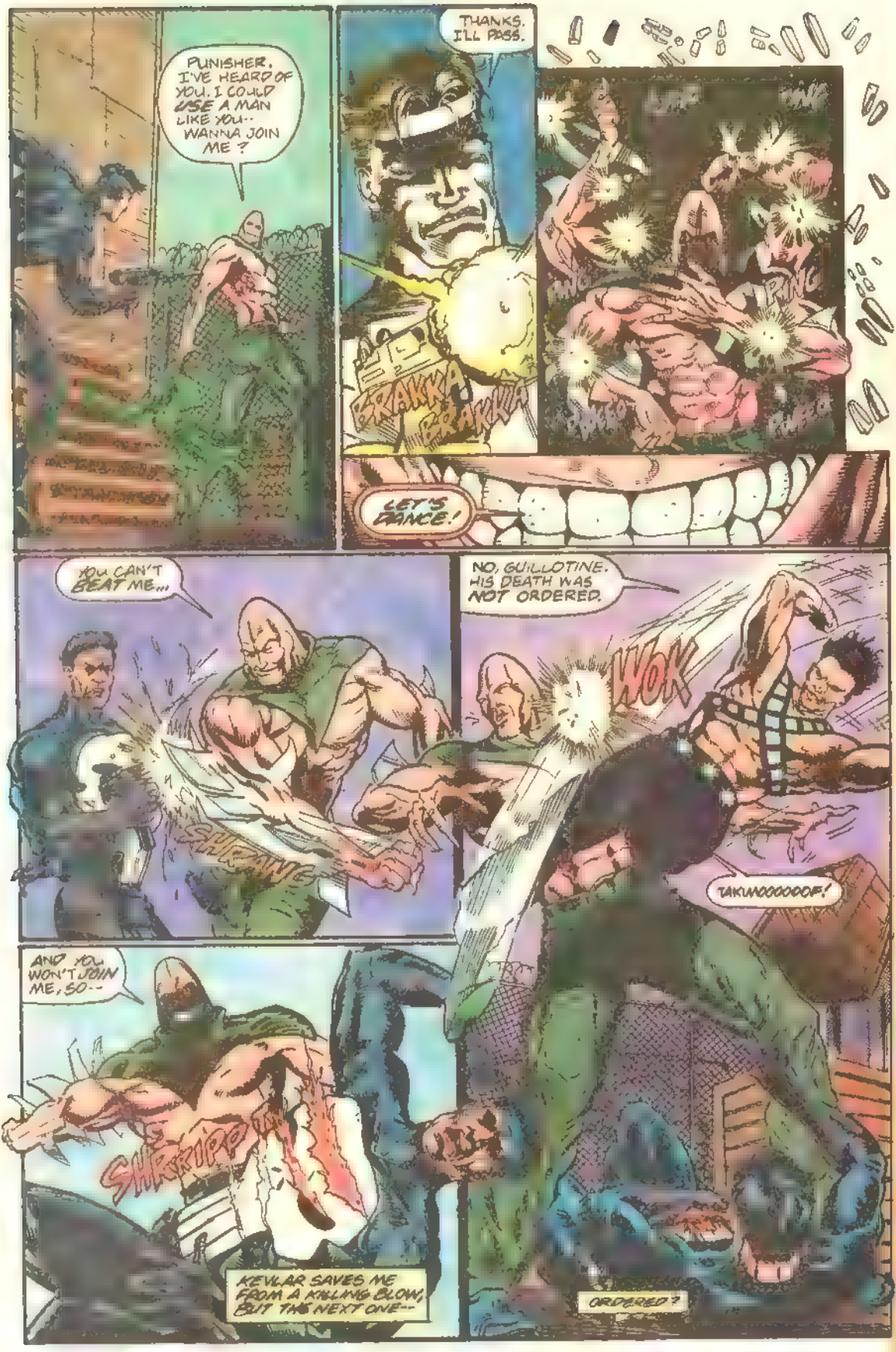
SURE YOU ARE.
EVEN BIGGER'N WHEN YOU WERE IN JAPAN.
YOU MOVE WAY TOO SLOW. YOUR CHANNELS BIT DIRT. MY DISTRIBUT ON REAPS FAR GREATER PROF TS!
SLISH
SLASH
DIDN'T YOU LOSE THE FIRST THREE FINGERS 'CAUSE YOU WERE TOO SLOW?
PUT THIS FAILURE OUT OF OUR MISERY, BOYS!
I OFFERED YOUR BOYS A BIGGER PIECE OF THE PIE TO JOIN ME ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS.
BUDDA
GUESS YOU FAILED TO KEEP THEIR LOYALTY, HUH?
THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US THE PLEASURE OF PROFIT!
HEY, DON'T THANK ME, THANK HYDRA!

YER FINISHED, TAKIMOTO. WE TRACKED YA VIA THAT LITTLE BUG ZEIDERMAN'S CARVING OUT OF YER NECK.
LUCKY US, WE HAD PIECES FROM ANOTHER ONE OF YOU HYDRA LOONIES.
SPILL IT. WHO'S RUNNIN' HYDRA, NOW?
YOU CAN TALK TO ME OR MY CYBER-PSYCHIC! AND SHE DOESN'T LEAVE YOU THE SAME AGAIN...
FURY, HE KNOWS WHO'S BUTCHERING UNDERWORLD..
SO? YOU AFRAID OF THE COMPETITION?
YOU CAN GO, PUNISHER, BUT I AIN'T LETTIN' THIS HYDRA AGENT OUTTA MY SIGHT.
THIS AIN'T ABOUT YER PERSONAL WAR.
HE DOESN'T REALIZE INNOCENTS WILL SUFFER IF GUILLOTINE LIVES.
GOT IT.
OR--HE DOESN'T CARE.
HYDRA'S ALWAYS TRYIN' TA TAKE OVER THE WORLD I SQUASHED 'EM BEFORE I SENT BARON VON STRUCKER TO HIS GRAVE.
TALK! WHY ARE YOU CARRYIN' A DOUBLE HELIX GENETICS LAB CARD WITH YOU?
TAKIMOTO GIVES ME A NOD.
HE'S MAKING A MOVE.
LISTEN YOU LITTLE COCKROACH, YOU START ANSWERIN' ALL MY QUESTIONS OR--
LOYALTY, HUH?
LEMME TELL YA ABOUT LOYALTY!
I WATCHED ONE A' YER MUTANTS' HEAD'S EXPLODE 'CAUSE A' ONE A' THOSE DEVICES IN YER NECK--
THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO!
WAK

WE MADE A DEAL I'M A MAN OF MY WORD.
THERE IS NO GREATER GLORY THAN TO SERVE HYDRA!
KLOK
UHHHN...
OOOOF!
AEIIIIII!
SMAK
TAKIMOTO'S FAST, BUT FURY'S NOT GOING DOWN THAT EASILY.
HAVE TO TAKE A HOSTAGE
WOK
KRAK
I DO REALIZE. I REALIZE YOU'RE WILLING TO JEOPARDIZE THE LIVES OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS BY IGNORING MY QUARRY.
PUNISHER! YOU DON'T REALIZE--
SELF SERVING MANIAC'S GONE!
THIS IS HYDRA! YOUR ALLY HERE IS HYDRA! DON'T YOU--
WE'RE OUT OF HERE. ONE NERVOUS TWITCH AND THIS GEEK LOSES HIS BRAINS. THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL WAR EITHER.
KKKSSH
YOU WON'T GET FAR-- YA KNOW THAT!
I CAN TAKE HIM, S.R.
PIERCE... SHADDUP!
I LOST THEM, COLONEL. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
IT BETTER NOT-- FOR THE WORLD'S SAKE.

ESCAPING HYDRA WAS THE SMARTEST THING I EVER DID.
COURSE, THEY DID GIVE ME A SHARPER WAY OF EXPRESSING MYSELF! HA!
HEY! YO! DID I SAY TO SLOW DOWN? DID I?
CLIVE BRONKOWITZ DON'T LIKE TO BE KEPT WAITING FOR HIS HEROIN!
I-I AM S-SORRY, MY LORD
THEY LOVE ME. HA!
KRAAASH
OKUN FIGURED TO TAKE A MONTH TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE AREA-- I'VE DONE IT IN DAYS-- WHA--?
COME ON, MY FRIEND, I'VE GOT A FULL CLIP FOR YOU!
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BWOOOOM
YEAH!

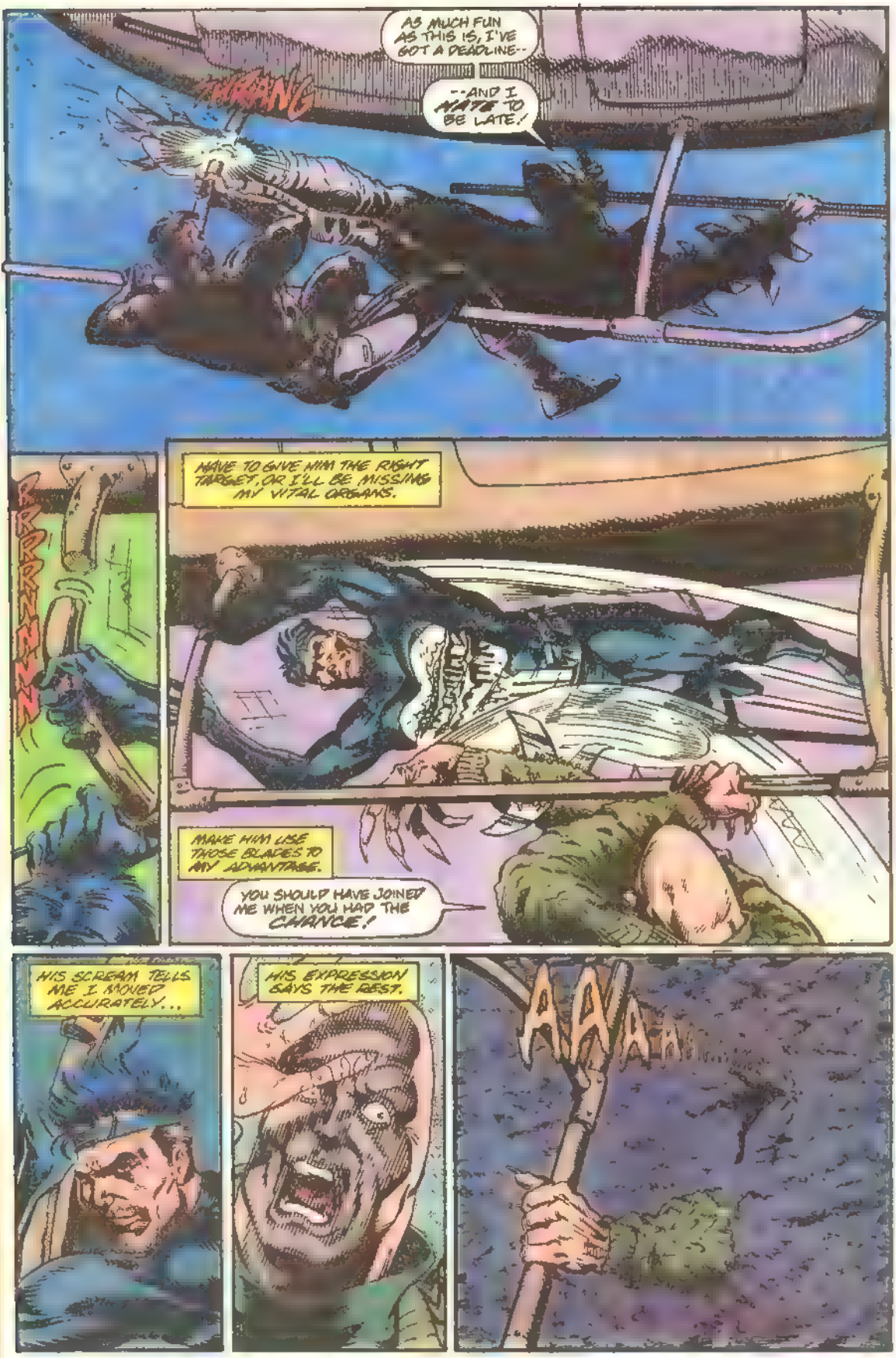
USING MY BATTLE VAN AS A DECOY BUYS US A FEW SECONDS OF SURPRISE.
FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, GUILLOTINE HAS TAKEN OVER OKUN'S BOYS.
WAY TO GO NOW WE CAN'T FIND OUT WHO WOULD TRY THIS!
LOOKS LIKE I KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE BULLET.
BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA
ARRRGGH!
THEY'RE RUNNING SCARED-- BUT THEIR MOVEMENTS ARE SLOW, LAZY.
PROBABLY HIGH ON SMACK, FEELING NO PAIN FROM THE BULLETS TEARING INTO THEIR FLESH
I'D RATHER THEY SUFFERED FOR THEIR CRIMES.
PUH-PUH-PUNISHER!
GUILLOTINE'LL SLICE AN'DICE HIS MISERABLE HIDE!
YOU TAKE GUILLOTINE-- I WILL TAKE THE REST OF HIS MEN!
BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA
TAKIMOTO'S TAKING HITS WITHOUT EVEN FLINCHING.
WHAT'S HIS MOTIVATION-- WHY IS HE LEADING ME STRAIGHT TO THE TARGET?


PUNISHER. I'VE HEARD OF YOU. I COULD USE A MAN LIKE YOU-- WANNA JOIN ME?
THANKS. I'LL PASS.
BRAKKA BRAKKA
LET'S DANCE!
YOU CAN'T BEAT ME...
SHKAWK
NO, GUILLOTINE. HIS DEATH WAS NOT ORDERED.
WOK
TAKUNOOOOOF!
AND YOU WON'T JOIN ME, SO--
SHKRUPP
KEVLAR SAVES ME FROM A KILLING BLOW, BUT THIS NEXT ONE--
ORDERED?

HA! ORDERED? LIKE I CARE ABOUT HYDRA ORDERS!
YOUR SAD LOYALTY'S GONNA KILL YOU.
LOYALTY TO HYDRA, TO THE PUNISHER!
YOU AND I ARE MEAT TO H.M.
AND I AIN'T GONNA FRY BECAUSE OF YOU!
I'M BEING USED. FOR WHAT?
TAKIMOTO... YOU SAVED MY LIFE... WHY?
WE... MADE... A DEAL. H-H-HAD TO BRING... IN... GUILLOTINE. ONE DOES NOT... BETRAY HIS ALLIES.
YOU ARE HYDRA?
Y-YES...
WHY ME?
T-TEST... TO S-SEE...?
DEAD. LIKE I'D BE IF HE DIDN'T TAKEN MY PLACE.
A TEST? FOR WHAT?
I DON'T CARE.
HYDRA OR NOT, THIS MAN GAVE HIS LIFE FOR ME.
AND THAT WALKING SWISS ARMY KNIFE'S GOING TO HAVE TO ANSWER FOR IT

CHOPPER'S AIR-BORNE GUILLOTINE THINKS HE'S GOTTEN AWAY
WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHU
DOESN'T KNOW I WON'T ALLOW IT.
I REFUSE TO LOSE.
SHIFT IN WEIGHT... WHAT CAUSED--
--PUNISHER?!!
NA! SHOULD HAVE FINISHED HIM OFF BEFORE.
KICK
AUTO PILOT ENGAGED
HE'S COMING FOR ME
SHOULD THANK HIM FOR THE FAVOR.
I DON'T SUPPOSE THIS MEANS YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT JOINING ME?

CHEST IS ON FIRE.
AGONY, JUST TRYING TO HOLD ON.
RAGE KEEPS ME FROM PASSING OUT.
WE CAN MAKE A DEAL.
VENGEANCE GUIDES MY THROW.
GO DEAL WITH THE DEVIL!
ARRGGGHH!
LOST MY GRIP FOR AN INSTANT.
FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT WOULD KILL A MAN.
MAYBE EVEN THIS BUTCHER.
WOKK
LOOKS LIKE THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD NIGHT AFTER ALL!


AS MUCH FUN AS THIS IS, I'VE GOT A DEADLINE--
--AND I HATE TO BE LATE!
WARNING
WARNING
HAVE TO GIVE HIM THE RIGHT TARGET, OR I'LL BE MISSING MY VITAL ORGANS.
MAKE HIM LOSE THOSE BLADES TO MY ADVANTAGE.
YOU SHOULD HAVE JOINED ME WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE!
HIS SCREAM TELLS ME I MOVED ACCURATELY...
HIS EXPRESSION SAYS THE REST.
AAAAH...

BINGO! YOU AIN'T GETTING AWAY FROM NICK FURY, PAL!
SHROOOOSH
FIVE MINUTES PASS AND HE STILL HASN'T COME UP FOR AIR.
FALL MUST'VE KILLED HIM.
BETTER HAVE THIS GASH SEWED UP
I'LL LEAVE THIS TO FURY'S TECHNO-LOGICAL MARVELS
GONE! NOTHIN'! WHERE DID IT GO?!
IMM
-TIK- SUBJECT LOCATED -TIK- RE-COVERY OP ENGAGED -TIK-
SPLOOOSH
I'M GETTIN' BEAT EVERY TURN! NOBODY'S LISSEN-IN'! NOBODY UNDERSTANDS!
I JUST HOPE THIS DOUBLE HELIX GENETICS HAS SOME ANSWERS...

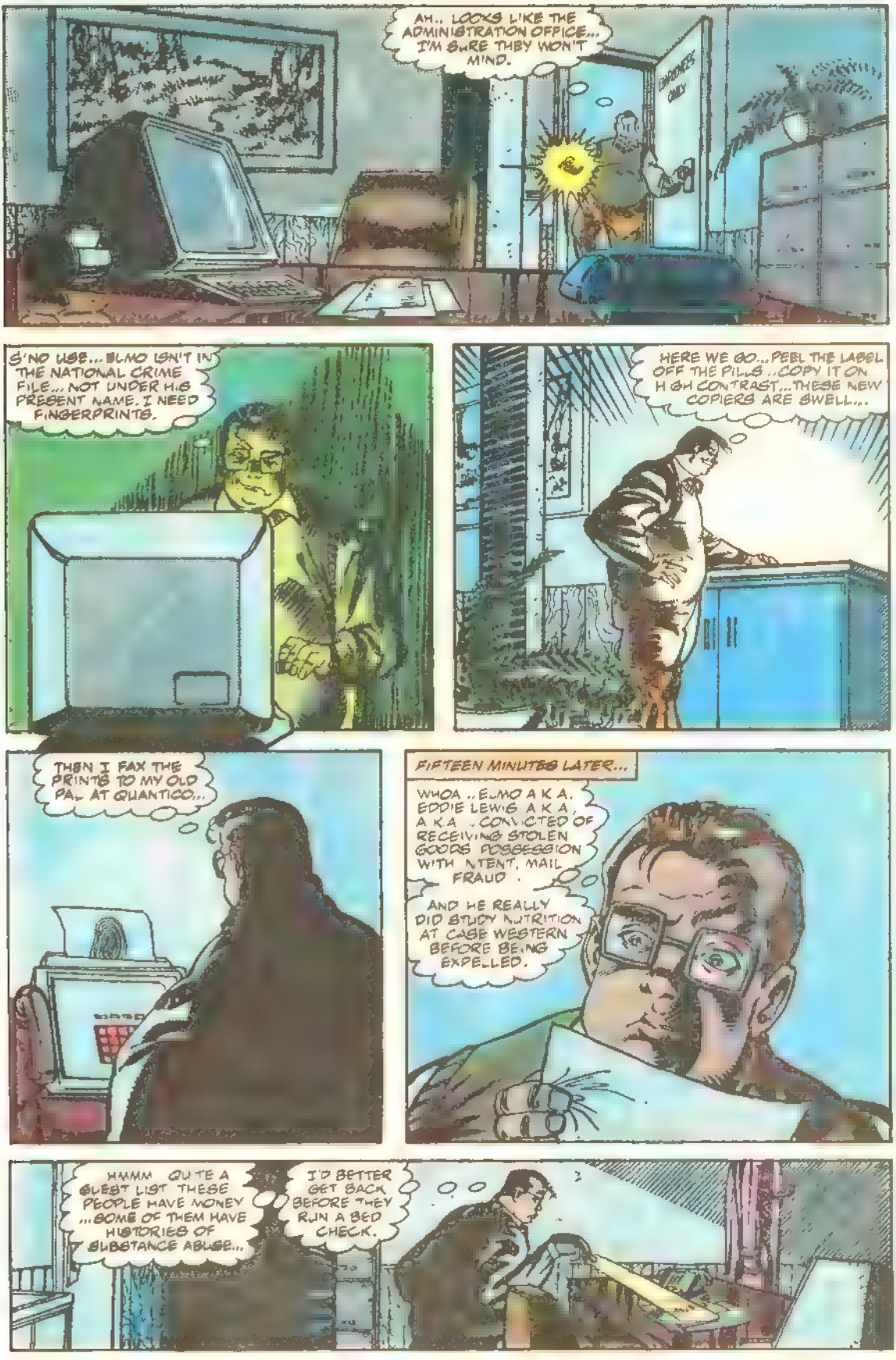
EXCELLENT RECOVERY!
BRAVO, GUILLOTINE.
SLAP
A VERY CLEVER MODE OF ESCAPE!
WHA-?
IT REALLY WOULD HAVE BEEN A SHAME TO TERMINATE YOU LIKE YOUR FELLOW SUPER-SOLDIER, SATHAN.
THE IMPLANTS IN HER NECK BLEW HER HEAD TO PIECES!
YEAH. CLEVER. THAT'S ME.
I UNDERSTAND YOU MANAGED TO TAKE OVER A LARGE PIECE OF THE AREA'S DRUG TRADE. INGENIOUS!
I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON YOU TO TAKE IT BACK, IN THE NAME OF HYDRA, WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.
A BIT OF NEWS CONCERNING THE LAST OF YOU-- THE BEAUTIFUL ROMULUS IS SAID TO BE HEADING FOR PUBLIC MEL IN GENETICS.
LET US HOPE SHE IS AS... WISE AS YOU.
I HATE TO THINK WHAT THE BLOODTHIRSTY BOUNTY HUNTER ZAK/N/ WOULD DO TO HER...
CONCLUDED IN CAPTAIN AMERICA ANNUAL #10.

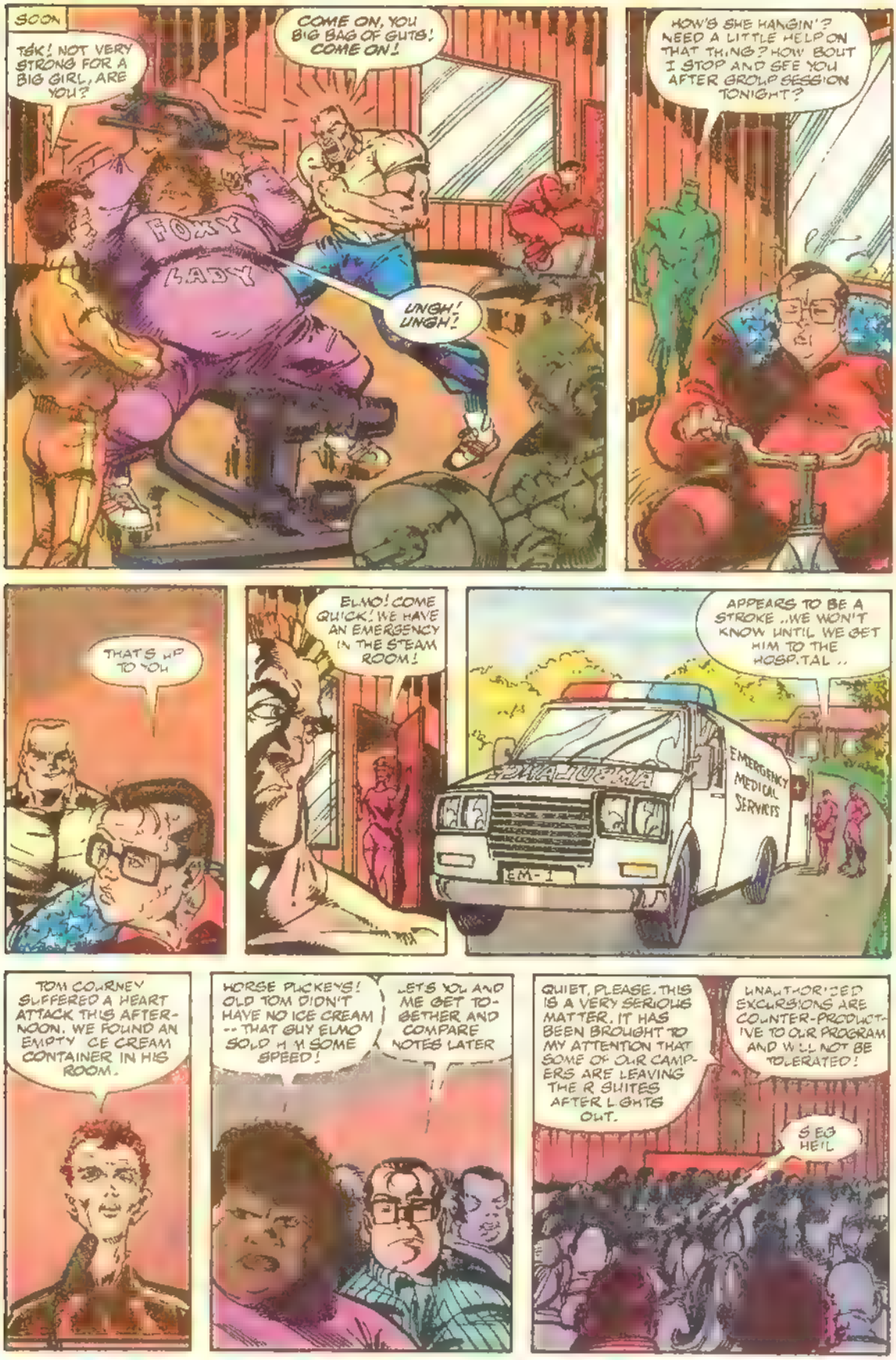
FAT FARM
225
UHK!
I KNOW THIS CUP OF COFFEE DOESN'T WEIGH FORTY POUNDS, IT MUST BE ME.
A HEALTH RETREAT SPECIALIZING IN WEIGHT REDUCTION AND EATING DISORDERS
227 BLACKBIRD LANE RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
I'M SICK OF BEING OVERWEIGHT! IF LIZ TAYLOR CAN REDUCE, SO CAN I.
WELCOME TO CAMP SLIMLINE, MR. LEBERMAN. MY NAME IS PAM--I'LL BE YOUR LIAISON WHILE YOU'RE HERE.
HI PAM.
I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM. OUR ORIENTATION MEETING IS AT FIVE PM
FOLLOWED BY DINNER?

HA HA NO, MR. LIEBERMAN. EACH CAMPER HAS HIS OR HER OWN NUTRITIONIST WHO WILL WORK WITH YOU TO CONTROL YOUR DIET. BY THE WAY... DID YOU CHECK YOUR BAG WITH MRS. GRUNDY?
NO. WHY?
YOU'D BE SURPRISED AT WHAT PEOPLE SMUGGLE IN... TINNED HAMS, BAGS OF PORK RINDS...
REALLY? KIND OF SELF-DEFEATING, DON'T YOU THINK?
WHAT'S THIS, MR LIEBERMAN?
HOLY--!! HOW DID THAT GET IN THERE?
DIET
WHY DON'T YOU GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE CAMP AND WE'LL SEE YOU AT FIVE.
OKAY.
I AM NOT A HAPPY CAMPER
FIVE PM...
HI, BOYS AND GIRLS! WELCOME TO CAMP SLIMLINE! I'M RUDY THURSTON, THE HEAD NUTRITIONIST. WE EMPLOY A MULTI-PHASE PROGRAM OF WEIGHT CONTROL INCLUDING A LOW-FAT, HIGH-PROTEIN DIET, EXERCISE, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONING.

YOU WILL BE DIVIDED INTO FIVE GROUPS-- YOU WILL MEET ONCE A DAY TO OFFER MUTUAL SUPPORT AND CONFESS TO YOUR ILLICIT YEARNINGS AND DILLED PECCADILLOES. YOU WILL FIXATE ON THAT SUPREME OBJECT OF DESIRE, MUTANT NINJA TURTLE PIZZA.
WHO?
MY SON HAS ALL THE R TOYS.
I THINK I CAN DO WITHOUT THE TURTLE PIZZA. LINUS LIEBERMAN --NEW YORK.
CHERELLE TIMMONS --SAVANNAH. IT'S NOT MADE WITH TURTLES.
LINUS, CHERELLE.. NO TALK NG OR YOU LL FORFEIT YOUR TELEVISION PRIVLEGES
WHOA! NOW I'M SCARED...
I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE MY ASSTANT, ELMO SORENSON. ELMO?
HOWDY.
OKAY WE'RE GOING TO BREAK UP INTO STUDY GROUPS. EITHER ELMO OR I WILL SPEAK TO EACH OF YOU TONIGHT REGARDING YOUR PERSONAL REGIMEN
SOON
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN OVERWEIGHT, LINUS?
ALL MY LIFE ELMO. IN HIGH SCHOOL THEY CALLED ME MACROMAN.

I'LL BE FRANK WITH YOU L NUS. LIFELONG PATTERNS OF OBESITY ARE HARD TO BREAK WITHOUT PHARMA-CEUTICAL ASSISTANCE.
SAY WHAT?
PROTEIN BLOCKERS AND APPETITE SUPPRESSANTS. I'M GOING TO WRITE YOU A PRESCRIPTION... THERE WILL BE A SMALL SUR-CHARGE
HOW MUCH?
A HUNDRED DOLLARS A WEEK
I DON'T KNOW... THEY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS IN THE BROCHURE...
WELL, YOU THINK IT OVER, IN THE MEANTIME, HERE'S SOME APPETITE SUPPRESSANTS TO GET YOU STARTED. BETTER KEEP THESE TO YOURSELF.
ELMO'S GOT EX-CON WRITTEN ALL OVER HIM. I NEED TO BORROW THE R COMPUTER...
SLAM
JEEZ WHERE AM I GONNA GET A LOCKP CK?
TIME DISINTEGRATES WHEN YOU RE HAV NG FUN
IT TAKES MORE THAN AN ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED DEADBOLT TO STOP THE M CROMAN


AH.. LOOKS LIKE THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE... I'M SURE THEY WON'T MIND.
BROOKES ONLY
S'NO USE... ELMO ISN'T IN THE NATIONAL CRIME FILE... NOT UNDER HIS PRESENT NAME. I NEED FINGERPRINTS.
HERE WE GO... PEEL THE LABEL OFF THE PILLS.. COPY IT ON HIGH CONTRAST... THESE NEW COPIERS ARE SWELL...
THEN I FAX THE PRINTS TO MY OLD PAL AT QUANTICO...
FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...
WHOA .. ELMO A.K.A. EDDIE LEWIS A.K.A., A.K.A. . CONVICTED OF RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS POSSESSION WITH INTENT, MAIL FRAUD .
AND HE REALLY DID STUDY NUTRITION AT CASE WESTERN BEFORE BEING EXPELLED.
HMMM QUITE A GUEST LIST THESE PEOPLE HAVE MONEY ...SOME OF THEM HAVE HISTORIES OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE...
I'D BETTER GET BACK BEFORE THEY RUN A BED CHECK.


SOON
TSK! NOT VERY STRONG FOR A BIG GIRL, ARE YOU?
COME ON, YOU BIG BAG OF GUTS! COME ON!
FOXY LADY
UNGH! UNGH!
HOW'S SHE HANGIN'? NEED A LITTLE HELP ON THAT THING? HOW 'BOUT I STOP AND SEE YOU AFTER GROUP SESSION TONIGHT?
THAT'S UP TO YOU
ELMO! COME QUICK! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY IN THE STEAM ROOM!
APPEARS TO BE A STROKE ..WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE GET HIM TO THE HOSP.TAL ..
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
EM-1
TOM COURNEY SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK THIS AFTERNOON. WE FOUND AN EMPTY ICE CREAM CONTAINER IN HIS ROOM.
HORSE PUCKEYS! OLD TOM DIDN'T HAVE NO ICE CREAM -- THAT GUY ELMO SOLD H M SOME SPEED!
LET'S YOU AND ME GET TOGETHER AND COMPARE NOTES LATER
QUIET, PLEASE. THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER. IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION THAT SOME OF OUR CAMPERS ARE LEAVING THE R SUITES AFTER LIGHTS OUT.
UNAUTHORIZED EXCURSIONS ARE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO OUR PROGRAM AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!
SIEG HEIL

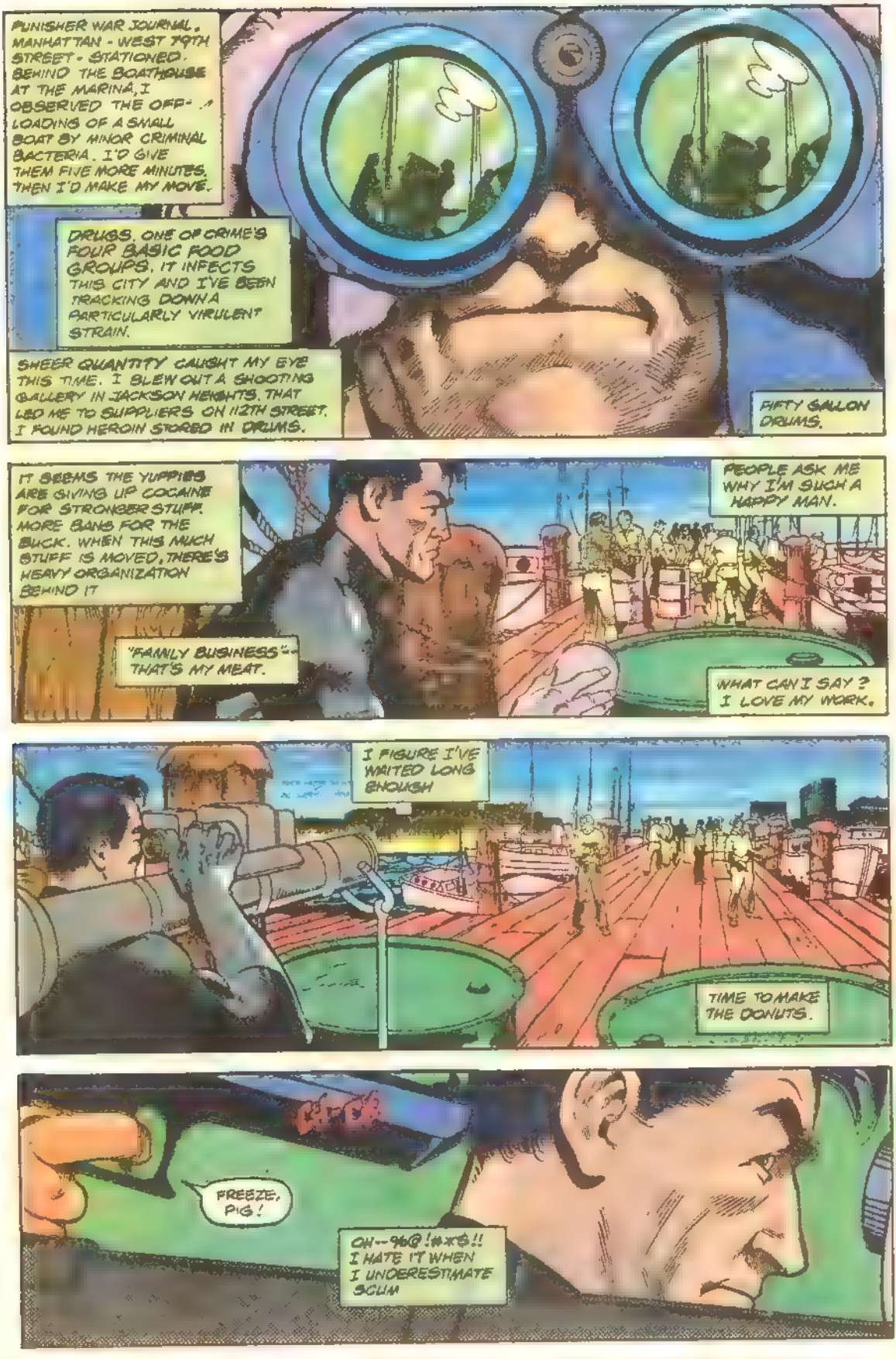
LATER
NOK NOK
COME IN, LINUS. TELL ME HOW YOU FOUND THIS PLACE.
MY ASSOCIATE FOUND THEIR BROCHURE WHEN HE MADE A HOUSE CALL AND GAVE IT TO ME AS A JOKE.
I ♥ NY
UH-HUH, AND DID YOU SEE THE GOOD HUMOR MAN TONIGHT?
I SURE DID. HE SOLD ME A BOTTLE OF DEXEDRINE AND OFFERED TO GET ME COCAINE AND HEROIN.
MY, MY. THIS PLACE IS JUST ONE HAPPY LITTLE JUNK FARM...
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL THE COPS.
HONEY, THE COPS IS HERE! OL' CHERELLE'S A DEPUTY SHERIFF FROM SAVANNAH, GEORGIA. I GOT NO JURISDICTION, BUT LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT I DO GOT...
OL'CHERELLE DON'T TRAVEL WITHOUT HER PAL BETSY.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
I LOOKED IN MY CUSTOMIZED LUGGAGE, AND I GOT ONE TOO!
MM-MMM NOW THAT WE SHOWED EACH OTHER OUR PLAYTHINGS, WHAT WE GONNA DO ABOUT THESE FOOLS?
IT APPEARS TO ME THAT CAMP SLIMLINE SEEKS OUT WEALTHY PATRONS WITH DEPENDENCY PROBLEMS AND HOOKS 'EM ON JUNK. WHEN THEY LEAVE, THEY'VE GOT EXPENSIVE HABITS, AND THEY'RE SUCKERS FOR BLACKMAIL.
I ♥ NY

I'M SURE THE SWITCHBOARD IS MONITORED LET'S HIT THE RECORDS ROOM AND WIPE OUT WHATEVER THEY'VE GOT ON THE CAMPERS.
MM-MMM. WHAT THEY GOT ON YOU, SUGAR?
ME? I SELL A FEW ANTIQUES UNDER THE TABLE. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I FLUNKED MY PHYSICAL. C'MON SUGAR. LET'S GO
LISTEN, SUGAR--I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' 'BOUT COMPUTERS. WHAT SAY WE SPLIT UP--YOU TAKE THE RECORDS ROOM, I'LL LOOK FOR ELMO'S STASH. WE'LL MEET BACK AT MY ROOM AT MIDNIGHT.
OKAY.
I'D BETTER GET A PRINTOUT IN CASE WE GOT SOME MURDERERS IN HERE...
LINUS, WHAT DID WE TELL YOU ABOUT UNAUTHORIZED EXPEDITIONS?
WHAT'S GOING ON, ELMO?
I'VE CAUGHT OUR THIEF, MR. THURSTON, TRYING TO EXAMINE THE PRIVATE FILES OF OUR CLIENTS.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH HIM, ELMO?

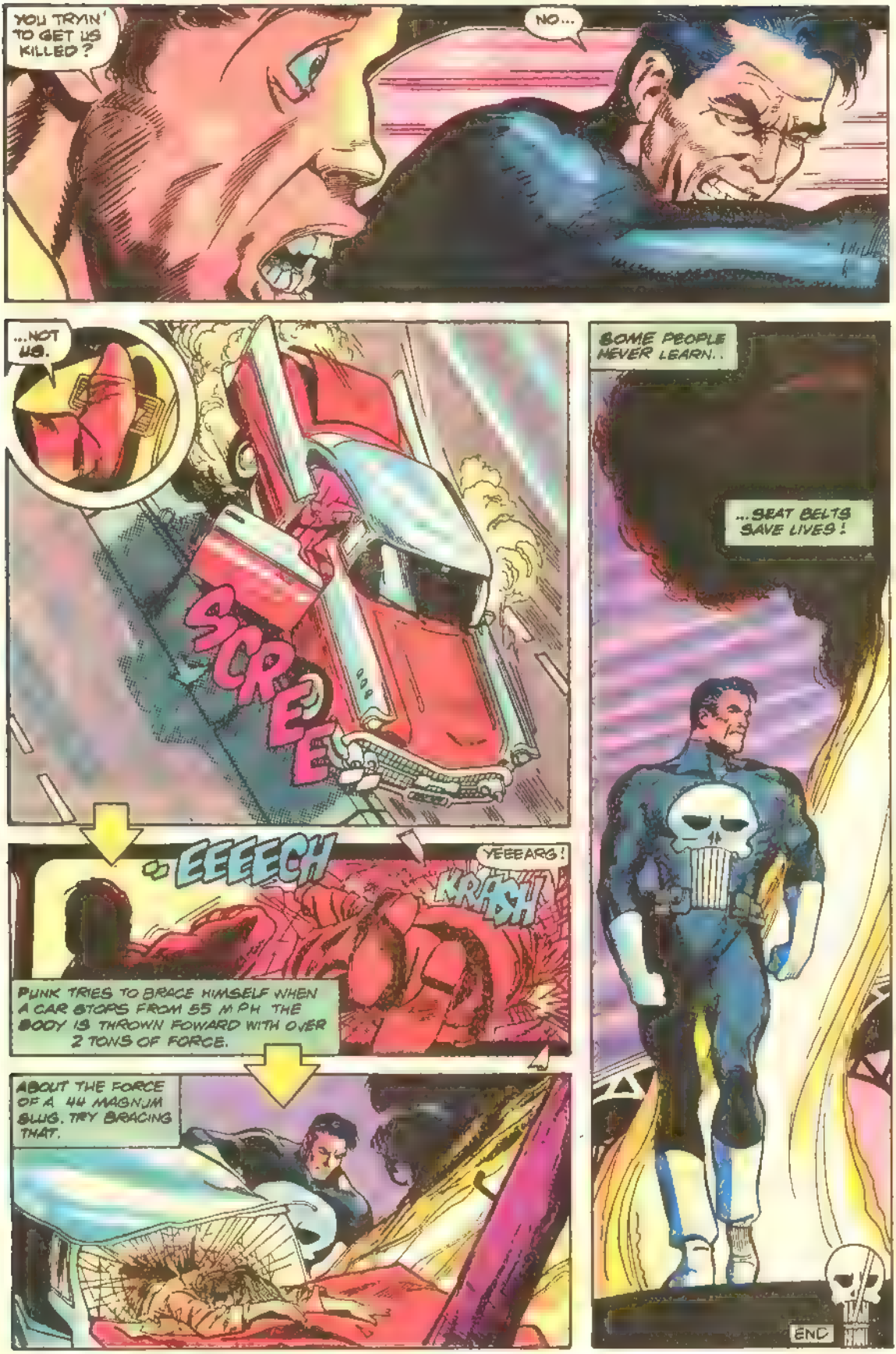
IT WAS DARK MR. THURSTON HE WAS ARMED I HAD TO SHOOT HIM
WAIT! NOT HERE... SOMEONE MIGHT HEAR. LET'S TAKE HIM TO THE BASEMENT.
JUST A MINUTE, MR. THURSTON. LET ME PAT HIM DOWN.
HOLY $#!T%. HE WAS ARMED!
I ♥ NY
DRAT! I'M JUST NO GOOD AT THIS UP-CLOSE STUFF
MR. LEBERMAN, WE MAY HAVE TO PUMP SOME SODIUM PENTATHOL INTO YOU TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MYSTERY.
OH $#!T%! WHAT IF THEY FIND OUT ABOUT FRANK?
BARE YOUR ARM, MR. LEBERMAN.
YOU HEARD THE MAN - NAG.
HOWDY, BOYS!
KRAK

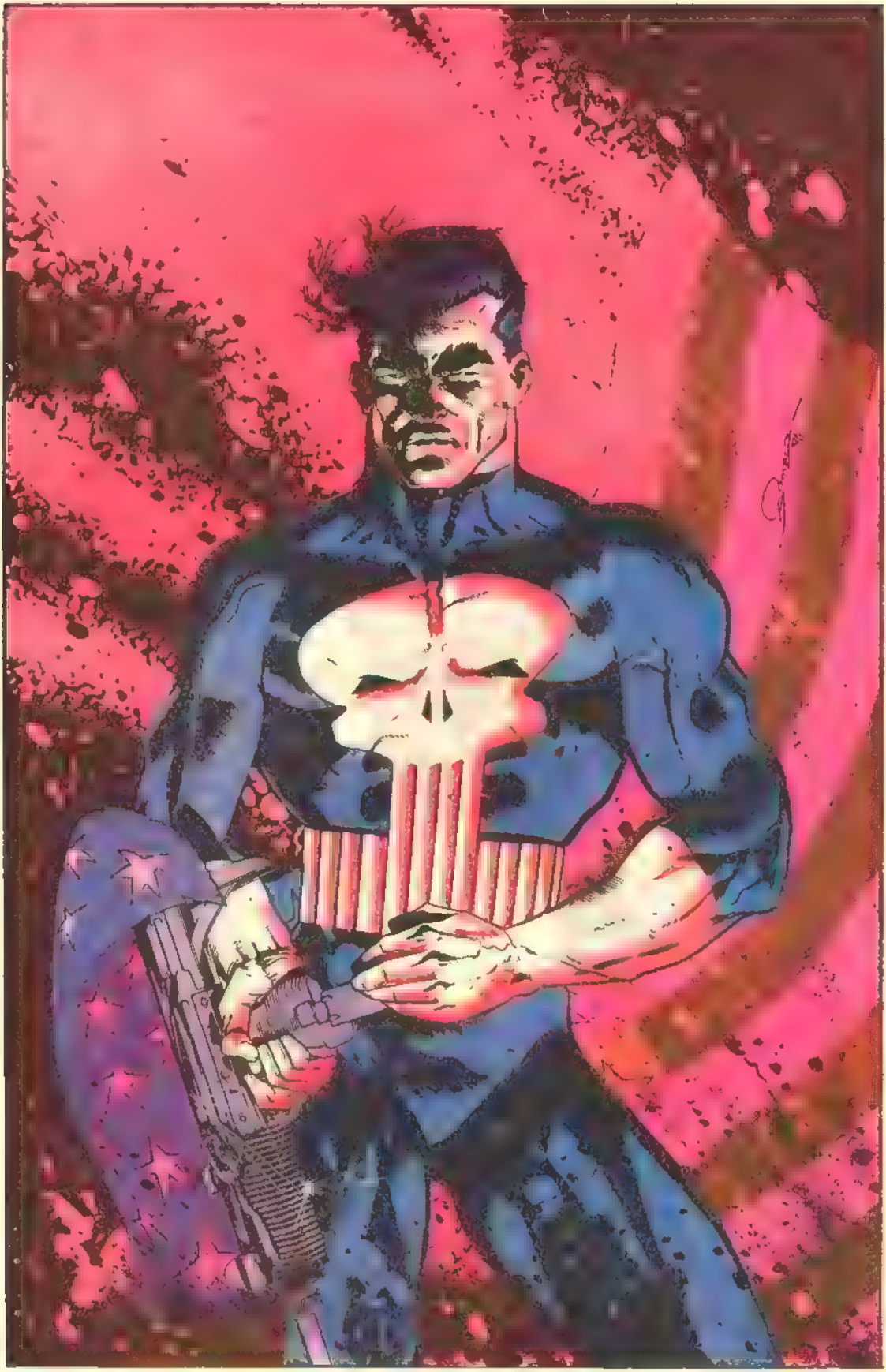
YOU BOYS LIKE NEEDLES SO MUCH ... HERE'S SOME OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE.
GOOD TIMING, CHERELLE! THEY'VE GOT A REGULAR PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY HOUSE DOWN HERE.
AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH, SUGAR.
DON'T WORRY, SUGAR— YOU'LL WAKE UP BEFORE THESE OTHER FOOLS ... AND I USED A NEW NEEDLE.
LATER
OOOHH...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT... SHE CLEANED THE PLACE OUT!
STILL A FEW HOURS LEFT UNTIL DAWN... I'D BETTER MAKE SURE THOSE RECORDS ARE WIPED... THEN I'LL HIGH-TAIL IT OUT OF TOWN AND DROP A DIME ON CAMP SLIMLINE.

ANYONE COULD WALK IN HERE AND GLOM THESE FILES...
AND THEY WERE GOING TO BLACKMAIL CHERELLE--!!
THOMAS CHERELLE
DEPUTY SHERIFF,
GEORGIA
SPECIAL VICE UNIT
UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR
ALLEGED THEFT FROM
EVIDENCE ROOM
POSSIBLE LINKS TO MAJOR
DRUG DISTRIBUTION IN
BATON ROUGE
DELETE
MICROMAN--ANY LUCK FINDING THAT CROOKED SHERIFF'S DEPUTY?
SHE'S GONE, FRANK ON THE RIVIERA BY NOW.
I'M GONNA ORDER A PIZZA, WANT SOME?
SURE. BUT LEAVE OFF THE ANCHOVIES, WILL YA? I'M ON A DIET.
THE END


PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL. MANHATTAN - WEST 79TH STREET - STATIONED BEHIND THE BOATHOUSE AT THE MARINA, I OBSERVED THE OFF-LOADING OF A SMALL BOAT BY MINOR CRIMINAL BACTERIA. I'D GIVE THEM FIVE MORE MINUTES, THEN I'D MAKE MY MOVE.
DRUGS, ONE OF CRIME'S FOUR BASIC FOOD GROUPS. IT INFECTS THIS CITY AND I'VE BEEN TRACKING DOWN A PARTICULARLY VIRULENT STRAIN.
SHEER QUANTITY CAUGHT MY EYE THIS TIME. I BLEW OUT A SHOOTING GALLERY IN JACKSON HEIGHTS, THAT LED ME TO SUPPLIERS ON 112TH STREET. I FOUND HEROIN STORED IN DRUMS.
FIFTY GALLON DRUMS.
IT SEEMS THE YUPPIES ARE GIVING UP COCAINE FOR STRONGER STUFF. MORE BANG FOR THE BUCK. WHEN THIS MUCH STUFF IS MOVED, THERE'S HEAVY ORGANIZATION BEHIND IT
"FAMILY BUSINESS"-- THAT'S MY MEAT.
PEOPLE ASK ME WHY I'M SUCH A HAPPY MAN.
WHAT CAN I SAY? I LOVE MY WORK.
I FIGURE I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH
TIME TO MAKE THE DONUTS.
FREEZE, PIG!
OH--%@!#x&!! I HATE IT WHEN I UNDERESTIMATE SCUM

TWITCH A MUSCLE AND I'LL--
--HOT DANG! I CAME FOR THE SKAG AND I BAGGED THE BG, BAD PUNISHER!
PUNK MANAGED TO GET THE DROP ON ME. HE'S BETTER THAN HE LOOKS.
HE LIKES TO SHOW OFF HE WIPES HIS SNOT ON $2000 ARMANI SUITS. GOOD TASTE IN THE TOOLS, DESERT EAGLE .44 MAGNUM IS A NICE TOY FOR LITTLE BOYS.
THE KINGPIN'S BEEN REALLY ANX'OUS TO SEE YOU!
I'LL BET..
YOU DRIVE, AND DON'T GET CUTE.
THE FAT MAN'LL PAY ME PLENTY FOR YOU, WISE GUY!
CLICK
MAN-O-MAN! I'M GONNA BE SET FOR LIFE!
WEST SIDE DRIVE CONTAINS THE OLDEST STRETCH OF HIGHWAY IN THE CITY. GOOD THING I'M SUCH A CAREFUL DRIVER.
GOT TO ADMIT, THE PUNK HAS TASTE. '57 CHEVY BEL AIR. CHERRY SHAPE. THEY SURE DON'T MAKE 'EM LIKE THIS ANYMORE.
1-2, N20 HORSEPOWER. TOP ENDS AT JUST UNDER 140
HEY! SLOW DOWN!


YOU TRYIN' TO GET US KILLED?
NO...
...NOT US.
SCREE
EEEECH
YEEEARG!
KRAK!
PUNK TRIES TO BRACE HIMSELF WHEN A CAR STOPS FROM 55 M.P.H. THE BODY IS THROWN FOWARD WITH OVER 2 TONS OF FORCE.
ABOUT THE FORCE OF A .44 MAGNUM SLUG. TRY BRACING THAT.
SOME PEOPLE NEVER LEARN..
...SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES!
END



NO
PARKING
ANY
TIME
SCHOOL
BONNEVILLE

TODD SMITH
&
JACK ABEL

STORY BY
WRIGHT & LEE
ART BY
JIM LEE

PUNISHER RULES • OF NICK FURY THE • GAME

PUNISHER RULES • OF NICK FURY THE • GAME
64 PAGE GRAPHIC NOVEL
ON SALE LATE '91
KRASH
BRAAPP
BLAINE! YOU SET US UP, YOU DIE!
JASON KWAN! IT IS YOUR TURN TO DIE!